

# Resources for a Train Themed Storytime

## Resource Books

### Starting With Stories: Engaging Multiple Intelligences Through Children's Books



by Pam Schiller and Pat Phipps

Pam Schiller's Starting With Stories is an excellent resource to use in developing storytimes for the diverse audiences you will encounter in public libraries.

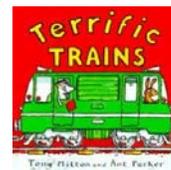
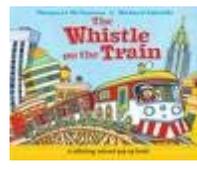
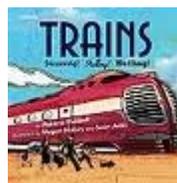
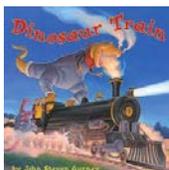
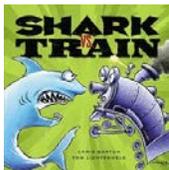
#### Pages 88-89 Freight Train

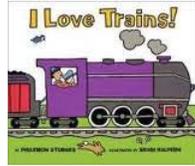
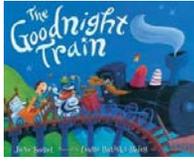
- Provide construction paper, scissors, glue, and rectangle and circle templates. Suggest that the children trace the templates to make train cars and wheels. Provide a sheet of butcher paper and black and brown strips of construction paper for a track. Encourage the children to make a track on the paper and then glue train cars onto the track.
- Cut a train engine and several train cars from construction paper. Place the letters of the alphabet on each car. Challenge children to attach the trains by placing the letters in alphabetical order. Ask questions: Which letter is on the front car? Which letter is on the back car. Try this activity with numbers instead of letters.
- Provide a tape recorder and empty paper towel tubes. Encourage the children to use the paper towel tubes to make sounds like train whistles. Suggest that they also record the train whistle sounds that they make, and their attempts to copy the clacking sound of the train wheels on the track.

#### Pages 120-121 The Little Engine that Could

- Make an inclined plank. Give the children items to roll down the plank. Provide some rolling toys, such as cars and trucks and even trains. Encourage the children to roll the vehicles up and down the plank. Ask, which is easier—up or down?
- Print “I can” on a piece of chart paper. Encourage the children to use magnetic letters or felt letters to copy the phrase.

## Train Books





Shark vs. Train by Chris Barton and Tom Lichtenheld

And the Train Goes... by William Bee

This Train by Paul Collicutt

Inside Freight Train by Donald Crews

Freight Train by Donald Crews

Dinosaur Train by John Steven Gurney

Trains: Steaming! Pulling! Huffing! By Paul Hubbell

Chugga-Chugga, Choo-Choo! By Kevin Lewis

The Whistle on the Train by Margaret McNamara and Richard Egielski

Terrific Trains by Tony Mitton and Ant Parker

The Goodnight Train by June Sobel

I Love Trains by Philemon Sturges

## **Songs and Fingerplays**

### **Down By the Station**

Down by the station early in the morning  
See the little pufferbillies all in a row.  
See the engine driver pull his little lever  
Chuff chuff, toot toot, off we go!  
Chuff chuff, toot toot, off we go!

### **Here is the Engine**

Here is the engine on the track (hold up thumb)  
Here is the coal car, just in back (hold up pointer finger)  
Here is the boxcar, to carry freight (hold up middle finger)  
Here is the mail car, don't be late! (hold up ring finger)  
Way back here at the end of the train (hold up little finger)  
Rides the caboose through the sun and the rain.

### **Trains**

Here's a little choo-choo train  
Chugging down the track  
Now it goes forward  
Now it goes back  
Now the whistle blows  
Whoooooo, Whoooooooo!  
What a lot of noise it makes  
Everywhere it goes  
Chooo-chooo-chooo!  
The train comes running back.

### **The Train**

Choo choo choo choo choo choo choo!  
Billy and Johnny, Maria and Sue,  
All of them watch for the train to pass through.  
*Substitute the names of children in your group*  
Ding dong, ding dong, ding dong ding!  
See the engine puffing, hear the bell ring.  
Click clack, click clack, click clack clack,  
Tell me please, will you come back?

### **Get A Ticket**

Get a ticket, ticket, ticket for the train.  
Get a ticket, ticket, ticket for the train.  
Don't stand out in the wind and rain.  
Get a ticket, ticket, ticket for the train.  
*Additional verses make the following substitutions:*  
Bus: Climb aboard, you can ride with us.  
Plane: Don't stand out in the wind and rain.  
Boat: The water's too cold to swim or float.  
Bike: It's way too far to walk or hike.

### **Little Red Train**

Little red train,  
Chugging down the track,  
First it goes down,  
Then it comes back.  
(chug around room by yourself)  
Hooking on cars.

### **Little Red Caboose**

Little red caboose, chug, chug, chug  
Little red caboose, chug, chug, chug  
Little red caboose behind the train, train, train, train  
Smokestack on his back, back, back, back  
Chugging down the track, track, track, track  
Little red caboose behind the train.

### **Little Red Caboose**

Little red caboose, Little red caboose,  
Little red caboose behind the train, train,  
Smoke-stack on his back, Going down the track,  
Little red caboose behind the train, train.

### **The Train**

Choo, choo, choo (slide hands together)

The train runs down the track (run fingers down arm)  
And then it runs right back. ( Run fingers up arm.)

### **The Freight Train**

Clickity, clackity, clickity clack!  
The train speeds over the railroad track.  
It rolls and rattles and screeches its song  
And pulls and jiggles its freight cars along.  
Clickity, clackity, clickity, clack!  
The engine in front is big and black.  
The cars are filled with lots of things  
Like milk, or oil, or mattress springs.  
Clickity, clackity, clickity, clack!  
The engineer waves, and I wave back.  
I count the cars as the freight train goes  
and the whistle blows and blows....and blows!

### **As it Goes**

As it goes,  
Little red train  
Just grows and grows.  
(have one child hook on behind you)  
(repeat until all children are part of the train.)

### **The Peanut Song**

Oh, the peanut sat on the railroad track,  
His heart was all a flutter.  
The choo-choo train came down the track,  
Toot, toot, peanut butter.

Improvise: lemon-lemonade, grapes-jelly, apples-applesauce, strawberry-berry jam and on, and on, and on.

### **Little Red Train**

Everyone sits and waits at the train station. One person begins by pretending to be the engine. They walk about the room as everyone chants:

Little Red Train chugging down the track.  
First it goes down, then it comes back.  
Hooking on cars as it goes,  
Little Red Train just grows and grows.

The "engine" calls for a "car" to hook on. Repeat the chant. The second person calls a third to hook on. Continue until everyone has completed the train.

### **Zoo Train**

Line up in a row in to form a train. One child is the engineer.

SING: (Tune: Down By the Station)

Down by the Zoo Train

Next to the zoo

On came an animal

Do you know who?

The engineer says an animal...such as "A Kangaroo came and it was hopping."

Sing: We picked up a kangaroo

And what do you know

This is the way the train started to go.

(Hopping, Hopping) watch us go.

(Hopping) fast then (Hopping) slow

(Hopping) down, then (Hopping) back

Watch us (Hop) around the track.

At the end of the song the engineer goes to the end of the line. A new child is now the engineer and you can play again.

### **Engine Engine Number 9**

Chug shoulders and arms in rhythm. Repeat singing faster, then repeat singing slower.

After the first verse, hold thumb up and toot your whistle three times.

Engine, engine, number 9,

Coming down the Vancouver line.

If the train goes off the track,

Do you want your money back.

Yes, no, maybe so.

I've Been Working On The Railroad

I've been working on the railroad,

All the live-long day.

I've been working on the railroad,

Just to pass the time away.

Can't you hear the whistle blowing,

Rise up so early in the morn,

Can't you hear the captain shouting,

"Dinah, blow your horn."

Dinah, won't you blow,

Dinah, won't you blow,

Dinah, won't you blow, your horn?

Dinah, won't you blow,

Dinah, won't you blow,

Dinah, won't you blow, your horn.

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah,

Someone's in the kitchen, I know,

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah,  
Strummin; on the old banjo.  
Singing  
Fee-fi-fiddle-ee-i-o,  
Fee-fi-fiddle-ee-i-o-o-o-o  
Fee-fi-fiddle-ee-i-o,  
Strummin' on the old banjo.

**I'm a Little Red Train (Jean Warren)**

*Sung to "I'm a Little White Duck"*

I'm a little red train  
Chugging down the track,  
A little red train  
Going up and back.  
I travel all day  
Going round and round,  
Taking goods from town to town.  
I'm a little red train  
Going down the track  
Chug -- Chug -- Chug.

**This Little Train**

*(Sung to: "This Old Man")*

This little train, painted black  
It comes chugging down the track  
With a "Choo-choo; Toot-toot"  
Hear the whistle blow  
This little train goes chugging home.

This little car painted blue  
It has seats for me and you  
With a "Choo-choo; Toot-toot"  
Hear the whistle blow  
This little train goes chugging home.

This little car painted yellow  
It shimmies and shakes like a bowl of jello  
With a "Choo-choo; Toot-toot"  
Hear the whistle blow  
This little train goes chugging home.

This little car, painted green  
It's the fanciest car you've seen,  
With a "Choo-choo; Toot-toot"  
Hear the whistle blow  
This little train goes chugging home.

This little car; it is grey  
It takes you places far away  
With a “Choo-choo; Toot-toot”  
Hear the whistle blow  
This little train goes chugging home.

This caboose; it is red  
It will take you home to bed  
With a “Choo-choo; Toot-toot”  
Hear the whistle blow  
This little train goes chugging home.

### **I'm a Little Red Train**

*(Tune: "I'm a Little White Duck")*

I'm a little red train  
Chugging down the track,  
A little red train  
Going up and back.  
I travel all day  
Going round and round,  
Taking goods from town to town.  
I'm a little red train  
Going down the track,  
Chug-chug-chug.

### **Ride the Train**

*(Tune: "Row, Row Your Boat")*

Ride, ride, ride the train  
Quickly down the track.  
Clickety, clickety, clickety clack  
When will you be back?

### **This Little Train**

This Little Train ran up the track  
[Run your fingers up arm.]  
Toot, toot, toot  
[Make train whistle sound.]  
And then it came toot-tooting back  
[Run fingers down arm.]  
Toot, toot, toot

### **Hear the Engine Puff**

Hear the engine puff, choo-choo-choo,  
Hear the whistle blow, toot-toot-too.

Hear the big bell ring, ding-dong-ding,  
Hear the brakeman shout "All Aboard".

### **Sensory and Movement Activities**

**Musical Train Seats:** Set your classroom chairs up like on a train (two seats facing forward, two seats facing backwards, two seats facing forward, etc.) Have everyone seated except one student to either blow a train whistle or hit the switch to start the music. Then have that person jump in the circle of students. Listen to a snippet of "I've Been Working on the Railroad" as the students walk slowly around the train seats. When you turn off the music, all students will try to be seated quickly, but you'll be one chair short. The person left standing will be the one to blow the whistle or start the music for the next round.

### **Zoo Train**

Line up in a row in to form a train. One child is the engineer.

SING: (Tune: Down By the Station)

Down by the Zoo Train

Next to the zoo

On came an animal

Do you know who?

The engineer says an animal...such as "A Kangaroo came and it was hopping."

Sing: We picked up a kangaroo

And what do you know

This is the way the train started to go.

(Hopping, Hopping) watch us go.

(Hopping) fast then (Hopping) slow

(Hopping) down, then (Hopping) back

Watch us (Hop) around the track.

At the end of the song the engineer goes to the end of the line. A new child is now the engineer and you can play again.

### **Flannel Boards, etc.**

Put a piece of velcro down the paint stick. Put another piece of velcro on the back of each story piece. As you tell the story or sing the rhyme, have the children attach the appropriate train car.

Optional Rhyme:

The Train Ordinal Numbers

Tune: Farmer in the Dell

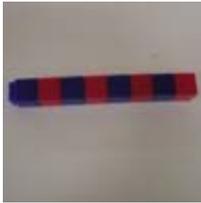
The engine is first, the engine is first.

Choo-choo the train blows,  
The engine is first.

The \_\_\_\_ car is second, the \_\_\_\_ car is second.  
Choo-shoo the train blows,  
The engine is second.

Fill in the blank with either the names of the cars or color of the car.

## Craft Ideas



### Train Patterns

[Math]

Children work in pairs, each choosing one color of the Unifix cubes to work with. The children make an AB pattern: one child adding one color and the other adding the next color, taking turns adding to the train.

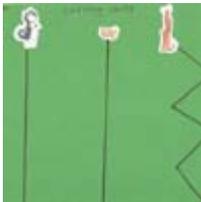
**Unifix Trains:** Have students create "trains" with Unifix cubes to match a number. I have Unifix number caps that we're going to use as the "engine."



### Name Trains

[Literacy]

Children glue squares with the letters of their name onto a strip of construction paper to make a name "train". We add a paper engine and draw on the wheels.



### Scissor Skills

[Fine Motor Skills]

Children pretend the scissors are a train, cutting along the railroad tracks (straight, curved & jagged lines). They stop when they come to the animal sticker.



### Craft Project Directions:

What you will need: Animal crackers, glue, construction paper, roll of paper. Take the construction paper and cut it into long strips to make an animal circus train. Next cut the long strips into separate rectangles (individual train cars) and then cut small rectangles out of them to make windows and places to put animal crackers. Leave one of the train cars solid and cut an end of it at a diagonal to make the engine of the train. Next roll out a long piece of paper that you can glue your train cars onto. Now assemble your train- glue the cars in place, glue in animal crackers to the cars, add wheels with crayon or by gluing down pre-cut circles and decorate.



### **Craft Project Directions:**

To make this craft project you will need colored construction paper, scissors, tape, glue, cotton balls, crayons, and a pen or pencil to trace your arm and hand. To begin take two pieces of colored construction and tape them together end to end to create a background for your train. Next take another piece of colored construction paper and trace your hand and your arm. Make sure when you trace your hand you keep your thumb flush with your palm. Now take another piece of colored construction paper and trace the rest of your arm. Now cut out your hand print and square off the palm. This will become the train's engine and lead your train down the track. Next take your arm tracings and cut them out and then cut them into train car sections. Now arrange the train and train cars in a row on the background piece of paper. Glue or tape them in place. Next cut out a smoke stack and many wheels for your train. Glue them in place. Now you are ready to decorate your train. Add colors with your crayons, puffs of smoke with your cotton balls, windows with pieces of paper, and more! Have Fun Heading Down the Track!